

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 050911
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:LPOPE:DWL
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
DOD/ISA - COL. SLATER
NEA/RA - COL. GROSS
PM/SAS - D KEENE

-----059080 281205Z /11

R 280238Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050911

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MASS, LE, SY

SUBJECT: MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO LEBANON

REF: DAMASCUS 1100

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE GIVE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM FOLLOWING MISSION: "TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL OBSERVATIONS, ADVICE, AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING LEBANON'S GROUND FORCE REQUIREMENTS. INFORMATION GATHERED SHALL INCLUDE THE STATUS AND CAPABILITY OF EXISTING LEBANESE ARMED FORCES, REALISTIC MID AND LONGER RANGE (2-5 YEARS) OBJECTIVE FORCE LEVELS, THE GROUND FORCE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THESE FORCE LEVELS, AND THE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF THE LEBANESE MANPOWER BASE."

2. YOU WILL BE INFORMED WHEN A FINAL DECISION TO RE-
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SCHEDULE THE TEAM HAS BEEN MADE. YOU SHOULD THEN, AT YOUR DISCRETION, MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO SARG AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL:

-- THE TEAM, CONSISTING OF FIVE OFFICERS HEADED BY A COLONEL, IS BEING SENT BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AT THE REQUEST OF THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, IN ORDER TO HELP THE TWO

GOVERNMENTS DETERMINE THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF DOLS 50 MILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE REQUESTED FROM CONGRESS IN THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR AND DOLS 25 MILLION REQUESTED IN THE COMING YEAR.

-- THE TEAM WILL BE IN LEBANON ONLY A FEW WEEKS AT MOST. THE U.S. DOES NOT RPT NOT INTEND TO ESTABLISH A MILITARY TRAINING OR ANY OTHER MILITARY MISSION IN LEBANON ON A MORE-OR-LESS PERMANENT BASIS.

-- THE TEAM HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BEFORE THE FIYA-DIEH INCIDENTS AND PLANNING GOES BACK TO DECEMBER, WHEN THE WHITE HOUSE INDICATED SENDING A TEAM WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA.

-- WE ARE SENDING THE TEAM AS PART OF OUR PUBLICLY-ANNOUNCED POLICY OF HELPING THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT REBUILD A SOUND, LOYAL NATIONAL ARMY. WE BELIEVE THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE.

-- WE WELCOME THE STATEMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE BY SARG LEADERS INDICATING THAT THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT SHARES THIS VIEW, AND IS WORKING TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL LEBANESE ARMY.

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3. BEIRUT 956 BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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